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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/431,833	11/02/1999	JOSEPH PHILLIP BIGUS	IBM/02B	9272

7590 04/18/2002

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EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2161	

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/431,833	BIGUS ET AL. PR4
	Examiner Firmin Backer	Art Unit 2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 1999.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 54-63 and 104-112 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 54-63 and 104-112 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 245-10
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 245-10
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to a letter for patent filed on November 2nd, 1999 in which claims 1-63 are presented for examination. Claims 1-63 were pending in the letter.

Preliminary Amendment

A preliminary amendment has been filed on November 2nd, 1999 in which claim 1-53 and 64-102 have been canceled, claims 104-112 have been added. Currently, claims 54-63 and 104-112 are pending in the letter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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2. Claims 54-63 and 104-112 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thro et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,977).

3. As per claims 54, 60, and 61, Thro et al teach a method of identifying an unknown party (*unknown party*, 84), interacting with an intelligent agent (*server*, 52), the method comprising determining at least one attribute (*priority*) related to the unknown party, comparing (*matching*) the attribute for the unknown party with attributes related to a plurality of known parties (*known parties*, 72), and identifying the unknown party as the known party having the attribute which most closely matches that of the unknown party and a signal bearing media (*communication system*) bearing the program (*see abstract, fig 2, column 6 lines 40-3 line 45, 6 line 23-51*).

4. As per claims 55 and 108, Thro et al teach a method of determines a plurality of attributes related to the unknown party, and compares the plurality of attributes for the unknown party with those of the plurality of known parties (*see column 6 line 52-67*).

5. As per claims 56 and 109, Thro et al teach a method wherein the comparing step includes the step of accessing a database including a plurality of records, each record associated with a known party and including the plurality of attributes related thereto (*see column 5 lines 26-54*).

6. As per claims 57, 104, 105 and 110, Thro et al teach a method wherein each of the plurality of attributes has a weighting factor associated therewith, wherein the comparing step calculates an accumulated weighting factor for each known party by summing the weighting factors of the attributes of the known party which match those of the unknown party, and

wherein the identifying step identifies the unknown party as the known party with the largest accumulated weighting factor (*see column 6 line 23-67*).

7. As per claims 58, 106 and 111, Thro et al teach a method wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent configured to conduct electronic transactions, and wherein the plurality of attributes is selected from the group consisting of an agent name, a client name, a bank name, a bank account number, a credit card number, a homebase location, an agent program name, a location or name of a source with which the unknown party communicates, and combinations thereof (*see column 6 line 52-67*).

8. As per claims 59, 107, 112, Thro et al teach a method, wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent, and wherein the determining step includes the step of scanning program code for the unknown party to determine attributes thereof (*see abstract, fig 2, column 6 lines 40-3 line 45, 6 line 23-51*).

9. As per claims 62 and 63, Thro et al teach a program product wherein the signal bearing media is transmission recordable type media (*see abstract, fig 2, column 6 lines 40-3 line 45, 6 line 23-51*).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (*see form 892*).

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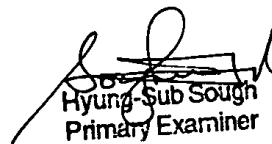
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammel can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.


Firmin Backer
April 14, 2002


Hyung-Sub Sough
Primary Examiner